

Message Text

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O 072207Z SEP 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA NIACT
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196916

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BR, OAS
SUBJECT: CUBA SANCTIONS
REF: BRAZILIA'S 6818

1. PLEASE TELL FOREIGN MINISTER SILVERIA THAT WE WERE ALSO CONCERNED BY THE PANAMANIAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ACTION IN CONVENING A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, OSTENSIBLY TO RECEIVE FORMALLY THE TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL. AMBASSADOR PITY TOOK THIS ACTION ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND IT RAISED DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF THE CO-SPONSORS AS WELL AS OURSELVES AS TO HIS INTENTIONS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE BRAZILIAN MISSION, WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT, THAT AMBASSADOR VIDAL SPOKE PERSONALLY WITH PITY AND THAT PITY INDICATED THAT SUBSTANTIVE ACTION WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE PLACE.

2. NONETHELESS, WE CONSULTED DIRECTLY WITH THE COLOMBIAN AND COSTA RICAN OAS MISSIONS INDICATING OUR SERIOUS CON-
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CERN OVER A POSSIBLE EFFORT TO ACCELERATE SUBSTANTIVE

OAS ACTIONS. THEY TOLD US THE THREE CO-SPONSORS ARE PREPARED, IF NECESSARY, TO BLOCK ANY ACTION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL BEFORE THE 19TH, THE DATE THAT THEY HAVE REQUESTED SO THAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS CAN PERSONALLY LEAD DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. EVEN A STANDARD REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE WOULD TROUBLE THEM, BECAUSE

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION WOULD ANTICIPATE WHAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL SAY.

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE ONLY COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT TRY TO ACCELERATE SUBSTANTIVE ACTION WOULD SEEM TO BE PANAMA AND PERU, WHICH THEMSELVES CANNOT CREATE AN OAS BANDWAGON. SO LONG AS NO, REPEAT NO, SUBSTANTIVE VOTE TAKES PLACE ON THE TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19 WE ARE LARGELY INDIFFERENT TO THE PROCEDURES ADOPTED ON MONDAY THE 9TH. THE SIMPLEST AND BEST PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOR THE COUNCIL TO RECEIVE FORMALLY THE PROPOSAL AND AGREE TO CONVENE, AS THE SPONSORS REQUESTED IN THEIR LETTER, AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 19 TO CONSIDER THEIR PROPOSAL. ANOTHER MARGINALLY ACCEPTABLE PROCEDURE, SO LONG AS THE TERMS OF REFERENCE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THE SUBSTANTIVE VOTE, WOULD BE TO CONVOKE THE COUNCIL PROVISIONALLY AS THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION FOR THE 19TH TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL. COMMITTEE REFERRAL, SO LONG AS NO SUBSTANTIVE VOTE OCCURS IN COMMITTEE BEFORE THE 19TH, WOULD EVEN BE ACCEPTABLE BUT PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT TO THE CO-SPONSORS FOR THE REASONS GIVEN ABOVE.

4. WE PLAN TO KEEP A LOW POSTURE IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL UNLESS THERE IS A MOVE TO ACCELERATE THE VOTE ON SUBSTANTIVE ACTION. IN THIS CASE WE WILL OPPOSE, TRYING TO GET THE CO-SPONSORS TO SPEARHEAD THE OPPOSITION, SO AS TO REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND. WE SUSPECT THAT PITTY'S UNDERLYING MOTIVE IS TO TRY TO GET US TO DO SOMETHING EMBARRASSING, EITHER TO OURSELVES OR TO THE CO-SPONSORS WHO, UNLIKE PANAMA, HAVE REMAINED FAITHFUL TO THEIR OAS OBLIGATIONS. IF ANYTHING FURTHER DEVELOPS WE WILL LET YOU KNOW IMMEDIATELY. WE ARE KEEPING CONFIDENTIAL

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IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR VIDAL HERE. KISSINGER

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